

Serial No.: 09/750,601
Examiner: Robert C. Scheibel

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-25 and 27-30 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 2, 6-9, 15-19, 21-22 and 27 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 22-25 are directed to allowable subject matter and that claims 2-5, 10-15, 20, and 27-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 6-9, 16-19, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection set forth in this Office action.

Claim 2 has been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Claims 6-9, 15-19, and 21 have been amended to overcome rejections, objections, and/or informalities as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 3-21 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 2 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 22 has been amended per the Examiner suggestion to overcome the noted informalities.

Claim 27 has been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 26. Claims 28-30 depend from and further limits, in a patentable sense, independent claim 27 and, hence, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

135763

Page 9

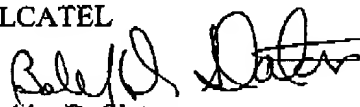
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CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all the Examiner's rejections, objections, and informalities, of remaining claims 2-25 and 27-30, as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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135763
Page 10